

A
P R O P H E C Y.

O F

K M E R L I N. *poor.*



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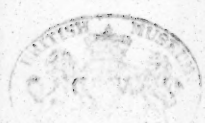
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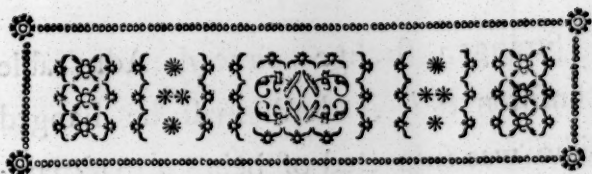


ADVERTISEMENT.

IT was by great chance,
that, the other day, among
some old Welsh manuscripts,
I met with the following frag-
ment of the celebrated Am-
brose Merlin, in the *Cumraëg*,
or antient British language:
and not knowing that it has
been hitherto translated, having
looked, in vain, for it, in Jef-
frey of Monmouth, and in other
writers on the British Antiqui-
ties,

ties, I thought a translation might not be unacceptable to the few, who are not declared enemies to every thing that sets them a thinking, especially for their own good.





A
P R O P H E C Y
O F
M E R L I N.

OE! Woe! thrice woe to all
impostors who shall have de-
ceived the good people of
Britain! I am no skrietch-owl, no
croaker of omens. I give the truth
pure as I received it. May my blood
atone for any falsity I shall willingly
utter against the inspiration of truth!

B Strange,

Strange, strange times ! Admirable consistences ! A lord shall be hanged who was suspected of being a madman ; while a commoner shall be made a minister of state, who was known to be a changeling.

A man shall mount the pillory, whose crime *must* have been his abusing the king of this realm *not half enough*, by the same rule that another man shall have been advanced to one of the highest offices of the state, for having abused the same king and his whole family *ten times as much*, in a place where abusing them was of fifty times the importance.

A

A great post shall beget a little turnstile. A juggler shall mount the stage and cry "*Lo ! here am I, the champion of old England,*" and, whip, presto-pas ; the champion vanishes out of sight, by jumping down his own throat and swallowing himself.

Vice shall, at a pinch, take Mock-virtue into partnership for a tool of government. A great orator shall, over the stinking vaults of corruption, build the Temple of Concord, and intrepidly place himself in the midst of it for the brazen image to be worshipped by the people ; and the people will worship him accordingly. A noble Duke shall at once burn the incense of *fætid*

gums before the idol, and loll out his tongue aside at it, as being his own little creature whom he will have made the sweet instrument of such a blessed UNANIMITY !

A Mercury, brass-gilt, shall be perched for a weather-cock on the summer-house of fortune, where it will point due east, as if to invite from that quarter its noxious blast of British hopes. For, lo ! the east wind shall arise and blow away the blossoms which the west wind shall have produced.

A kingfisher shall succeed in his fishing for an old king, with a hook baited with gudgeons of his own catching. But that is not all : he will catch

catch the king and not lose his gud-geons.

A Newcastle miner shall be so afraid of a pit's throwing out fire and flames, that he will not be able to carry on his drugery without closing up the mouth of the pit: a post across will do it effectually. After which he will go to work in such a manner, that one part of his labor shall be the destruction of the other part: and the pit will be highly celebrated for the cessation of that very inactivity of which the mighty foolish fear of that same spitfire pit will have been the true and sole cause.

The spoke of a wheel will be, by court-magic, transformed into the fore-horse

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horse of a team of hacks ; when the fly waggoner will hang him with bells for a jingle to please him, and make him go on, but will take special care to keep the crib with the corn at his own disposal.

On the fair stock of a British cause will be inoculated the foul bud of a German one ; passing through which foreign ingraftment, all the domestic sap from the original root, shall produce nothing better than fruit promisingly fair to the eye, but poisonously rotten at the heart.

A noble river, aiming at the resemblance of a sea, shall burst its banks, and leaving its natural channel dry,

dry, will run some risque of being absorbed by those very lands it will have overflowed, and have even rather fertilised than damaged.

A most humble dutiful subject shall pick a German quarrel, with his sovereign lord the king, for his majesty's impudence in not suffering him to treat him and his whole council, as if they were so many born ideots; for not, in short, cap in hand, with an implicit prostration before his sublime judgment, crying to him; "*Please you,*
 " MASTER, *it is in thy head alone that*
 " *the intellectual GOSHEN of all my king-*
 " *doms is to be found; darknefs inhabits*
 " *every head but thine: deign thou then*
 " *to be my sole director and governor,*
 " *The*

“ *the sovereign* GUIDE, in sh^{ort} of
 “ ME and my COUNCIL.” For *not*
 making such a concession the king
 shall be grievously censured ; and his
 said most humble and most dutiful
 subject, shall be rewarded for his most
 modest and regular pretensions with a
 good round pension for a copper-cor-
 net ; and shall nevertheless piteously
 sell his coach-horses for downright
 want — of fresh bait for his mob-
 traps.

Not a spark of British fire shall re-
 main unextinguished in the land, ex-
 cept just-just in one solitary farthing-
 candle, stuck for the purpose, on a
 high candlestick, where all the British
 Worthies, must receive the sacred fire,
 dog-

dog-cheap, upon *only* the *poor* condition of having all the exploits produced by that fire attributed to the farthing-candle. In the mean while it will be pleasant enough to hear the honor of successes given to a man, whose *only* share in them will have been the making them good for little or nothing.

A man whose eloquence shall be as false as his patriotism or his politics, shall from out of the legions of corruption *borrow* a majority, and in return for so high a favour shall most graciously *lend* them his own unembarrassed face for a screen.

C

The

The famous continental weight after having been long railed at, long passed for a Newcastle mill-stone, shall be glibly swallowed by a bottomless pit. Thence it will miraculously be hung round the neck of France, where it will be transformed into a cork-waistcoat or a swimming-girdle. "There is your *mill-stone for you*,"

A king, whose affections for his British and for his German dominions will be pretty near *equal*, but whose passion for money will be extremely sincere, will, in order to come at it, sacrifice *both* states. His manner of disposing of the produce of this sacrifice will be admirable: he will lend it at interest, to German princes, at the

the same time that the measures he will take for a pretext to raise those sums on his *loving* subjects, will utterly incapacitate those princes from ever paying a shilling of principal or interest. And in this sublime and glorious system of policy he will be most cruelly served or rather diserved by a gang of Germanised Britons: on the strength of which perfidious *bank* upon him in that single point, they will, in every other matter of government treat him not like their master; not even so well as their accomplice in the corruption and sale of their country to him; but like their footman bound to obey their orders, which for the greater aggravation of the insult, they will pre-

tend to receive from him, all the while that they will be imperiously dictating to him what those orders shall be. They will cram down his throat one raised into notice merely by railing at *him* and *his*, and whom he will love as much as he will hate the money that he will be told this juggler will bring under the cup, as a recompence for his enduring him.

A common stroller and withall so bad an actor, that no judicious manager of a theatre would give him twenty shillings a week for his performance, will with a fine theatrical air and tone, groan and weep over the imaginary insults on the memory and ashes of his *dear, dear* departed sovereign ;

sovereign; while the whole world, will know that but for the gross and real indignities offered by himself to him and his family, when he was *alive*; this rank adventurer in politics might have very quietly grown grey in the obscure honor of some subaltern commission in the army: that is to say, if with his restlessness of spirit he would not have been early broke for mutiny, or on his being kept from rising by his military talents being as despicable as his political ones.

A man, out of place, shall, in the presence of four hundred persons of honor, deplore the rottenness of a reign in which the sums expended in corruption

ruption will have been called by the gentle name of "Charges of government" he will declare there is not a found spot in the whole infected mass of power: and, the very next moment, when IN place, he will before the same individual four hundred persons of honor, unblushingly and intrepidly assert that the same reign was the "*purest reign in all the annals of Britain!*" This effrontery will not be the wonder. The wonder will be that out of those four hundred persons there will not be found *one* with the spirit to spit in his face, for his daring thus to treat them as if they had neither knowledge, memory, nor common sense. They will, on the contrary, at every blast that shall issue from

from that cave of the winds, his head,
bow down theirs, before him like
corn lodged by a storm.

A wooden horse full of armed Hano-
verians Hessians, Wolfenbuttliaus, &c.
shall be one moment, bitterly inveighed
against, as big with destruction to Bri-
tain: and the very next instant, it shall
be recommended as the Palladium of the
nation by the very same orator, without
the change of any *situation* but that of
his own from OUT to IN. And the
brazen man, who shall preach these
two contradictory doctrines, shall not
only be admired for his amazing con-
sistency; but his last doctrine shall fa-
tally prevail. But it will not be
quite so easy to *disembarass* his coun-
try

try of the curse of those connexions, as his *face* of the shame of his levity. However the name of the brazen-man shall be extolled above that of all his countrymen, ay, and of the king himself!

The cloud-compelling Jupiter of Britain will seem to have retired to take a comfortable nap on the top of Mount-Penfion: but his sleep will be only a dog-sleep: he will watch the favorable moment for re-assuming all the terrors of the mustard-bowl thunder of his theatrical eloquence; and once more try to get new bubbles, and to keep up the old ones. When the Lord have mercy on the ministers for the time being! woe be to those

those who shall have incurred his dread displeasure ! That Wind-gun without a ball will take all their heads off.

Many will most sagaciously curse a peace imagined to be at hand, without its being extremely clear that the blessing is procurable for them, at any rate; while he whose crime it will principally have been that peace will have been preferred to war, will not be ashamed of imputing to the innocent the inevitable consequences of his own levity and mercenary departure from his own principles. And what is more, the mob, but then indeed it will be only the mob, will hearken to him; to *him*, by whom they will have so often been sold, like sheep at a market,

ket, while they will seem to have imposed on themselves the task of being as constant to him, as he will have been manifestly false to them.

America may chance to be *lost* where it will never have been to be *won*; in Germany. The branches will be more likely to follow the fate of the stock, than the stock that of the branches. Europe will after all be the theatre of decision.

Let Britain take heed not to let a dazzle-fool glare of successes, so blind her as not to see that very brilliant acquisitions are not at all incompatible with ultimate ruin, and may but the more surely lead to it. A tightly fabric

fabric, raised on a sandy foundation, may sink in an instant. The wheel may run down with more rapidity than it will have run up.

Spain will not need to grudge her whole possessions in the West-Indies to Britain, upon the condition that to that curse of enfeeblement, which will have constantly cleaved to them, ever since Spain will first have had them, there should be joined that jealousy of the rest of Europe, which will have ever been their best security to Spain; for as to her own strength, that will never have been any material defence.

Britain will run into that sort of error, as dangerous at least to states as to the human body, the accumulating one crudity upon another: she will, for a very just and laudable interest, in one part of Europe, plunge into a new war, for which she will have been materially disabled, by the having carried on, and even not finished in another part of Europe, another pernicious war, in which she will be so far from having had any interest, that it will have been directly against her interest. The German gulph shall spawn the Portuguese gulph. *Abyssus Abyssum invocat.*

Fortune wooed and won by British valor shall, Leda-like, lay eggs, of which

which False-Policy will, with her poisonous influence, have so changed the nature, that it will be well if Britain, at the hatching them, does not find that she has been unawares brooding over basilisks of destruction.

An epidemical blindness shall prevail, and many who will have been *bit* by a mock-patriot shall rave and foam, and throw about a contagious slander, as if they had been bit by a mad dog.

A man who will have made his entry into power at the head of a mob, will consequentially and congenially enough *keep* in at the head of a mob. He will make it one of the
tenures

tenures of his power, the filling, it filling it can be called, offices with creatures of the mob-stamp. He will promote none but such as are mean enough to be his dirty implicit tools, or as have not merit enough to give him umbrage. All this will be in course. But it may be some little matter of wonder to see a duke of the west, with more nobles than one, and a commoner, the very mirrour of all sincerity, the flower of the minor orators, affect it as a very clever and fine air, that of standing by such a worthy head as they will *know* his to be. In this adherence they will be beneath even the mob; for the mob, who will have known him too, will not indure him till he shall

shall have taken for a colleague one whom it will be a great pity they had not known *as well*. Nothing then will be plainer than that some folks can only cleave to the corrupter from their own *taste for corruption*.

Numbers shall try to wreak their rage on one who will never have offended them, in favor of two men, the one of whom will, for a series of years, have flagrantly kept an open shop of corruption, and the other will have over and over sold a people that trusted him, and both, while they will be heartily despising one another, will nevertheless unite forces in favor of their interest, and, like an old bawd and her bully,
 swear

swear for each other's virtue: that they may force themselves on a prince, who not having the same need of being inflaved to them as his predecessor had, will most humbly beg to be excused his not wanting them to fleece or cheat his people. In the wise view of replacing this illustrious pair of worthies on the pinnacle of power, attempts will be made, by setting up a distinction without a difference, to breed an unnatural animosity between two nations whom nature has evidently joined for their mutual advantage. On this pernicious plan of *dis-union*, rather a long-eared than a long-headed rout, will try to bite off the thistle as it grows united with the rose, by which
 it

it is adorned, and which it helps to defend.

A young king shall ascend the throne, whose sincerely declared purpose will be to approve himself a British king; to replace things on the long forgotten good old British bottom, to hinder the British lion and the Hanover horse from hurting one another, and especially to govern by the free votes of an unbought parliament. At this the whole camp of Corruption will take the alarm, and tremble through all its legions of dunces. They will be afraid of things going in a channel, where prostitution and stupidity will be no longer the title to employment.

E

The

The immense chainwork of noisome insects, engendered and fostered by a cadaverous putrescence, will shoot their despicable stings, and buz the falsest and most ridiculous lies in the ears of the mistaken and well-meaning. The task worthy of such a swarm, will be to create in the people an opposition to the good intended them by a sovereign, who will have no object on earth but their greatest happiness. And what will be the return made for such a disposition? Let me not, from an absurd delicacy, mince the terms, in fixing an application which every 'prentice boy will cry aloud in the streets. The greater the respect due to such a sovereign, the less need of shewing any fear of expressing

pressing in plain words, the infamously mean scandal. His Majesty then will, publicly and implicitly in a thousand libels, be called a son of a w——; and his mother, whom he will be *weak* enough to *love* and *honor*, will be, with circumstances of infinite wit, stuck up in every print-shop in town, for a strumpet that will have imposed upon him her stallion for a *favorite* to lead him by the nose.

Some, not of the meanest rank, unless indeed for spirit, will underhand supply this loathsome fuel of abuse. Others will only laugh in their sleeve at it, without considering that it is into their own fountain of honor that all this filth and ordure will have been thrown.

But

But by much the majority of a nation, so justly famous for their humanity, as Britons, whose hearts are so apt to melt at any injuries to the innocent, will hardly refuse to their injured sovereign the tenderest feelings for his wrongs; they will, in a due light of execration, see the cruel stabs that will have been aimed at his heart, for no other apparent reason on earth but that of its being a purely British one.

F I N I S.

